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## ***BOOK REVIEW***

Tourism, Recreation and Regional Development: perspectives from France and  
Abroad.

Jean-Christophe Dissart, Jeffrey Dehz and Jean-Bernard Marsat (editors)

(Dorchester: ASHGATE, 2015; 267pp., Hardcover, £61.75, ISBN 978-1-4724-1622-3)

The field of this edited book concerns the association of recreation and tourism in an international perspective under the use of free time, and the development that can be implemented through the respective aspects. The book predominantly focuses on France and then it concludes through the use of overseas perspectives in an effort to situate France within the global landscape. Overall the book includes 15 chapters coming from 27 contributors that provide insights helpful enough for the reader to contextualize and understand regional development issues through recreational activities.

The 15 chapters of the edited book are grouped into four parts, each with a different theme. The first part entitled “Tourism and recreation: Here and not somewhere else” consists of four chapters. Stephanie Truchet and Jean-Marc Callois (chapter 1) examine the influence of the tourism development’s organization in a specific region under the perspective of social capital theories. In the second chapter written by Clarizze Cazals and Sandrine Lyser, an analytical tourism enhancement framework of heritage is presented, associated with the complexity of economic decisions. In addition, it analyses the tensions towards a series of possible trajectories. Jean Corneloup, Philippe Bourdeau and Pascal Mao (chapter 3) examine the processes,

procedures and principles at work in the cultural representation of tourism and sport areas, and re-evaluate the concepts of territory, culture and development. The last chapter of the first part (chapter 4) is written by Vincent Vles, and evaluates the importance of inter-municipal tourism cooperation in France, its advantages, and its contribution for the achievement of better adjustment to sustainable development.

As in the first part, the second part of the book entitled “At the heart of destinations: Users and stakeholders” includes four chapters. The first chapter of this part is written by Jean-Bernard Marsat (chapter 5), and focuses on destination strategic management through a framework use based of strategic theory of organizations. Christophe Clivaz and Emmanuelle George-Marcelpoil (chapter 6) examine the diversity of organization models of French and Swiss ski resorts, and their ability to meet the challenges posted by the future of leisure accommodation through a comparative perspective. Ludovic Ginelli (chapter 7) concentrates its chapter to nature-based leisure activities. More specifically he examines the interesting relationship of ecologization (activities that can fulfil the ‘need for nature’ feeling of participants) with the preceded nature-based leisure activities. Finally, Isabelle Frochot (chapter 8) provides a good investigation for the service relationships between the consumer and the provider within the tourist resort context, and analyses service management within an integrated resort.

The third part entitled “Tourism and recreation: Opportunities for places” also includes four chapters. In chapter 9 (the first chapter of this part) , Jeffrey Dehez, Asma Ben Othmen and Tina Rambonilaza discuss the financial tourist contribution of natural areas, and draw attention to demand analysis. They explain the willingness of tourists to financially support national parks, and evaluate non-economic motivations

in the behavioral patterns of tourists. Dominik Cremer-Schulte and Jean-Christophe Dissart (chapter 10) implement a quantitative analysis between tourist resorts and the local development of their neighboring areas, aiming to explore the association towards resort designation, tourism activity and local development. France Loubert and Liliane Perrin-Bensahel (chapter 11) propose the development of an original analysis framework, combining the approaches of capability and territorial economy. In the last chapter of this part (chapter 12) Amedee Mollard and Dominique Vollet examine the French regions of Bauges and Sancy, and argue that the contribution of environmental amenities to territorial development is effective only when they are jointly promoted by tourist services and local quality products.

The fourth and final part deals with conclusions and consists of three chapters. David W. Marcouiller (chapter 13) provides an interesting tourism based natural amenity overview in North America, also including the implications of public policy and the research needs of consulting. The next chapter written by Mary Cawley and Gordon Clark (chapter 14) describes the UK and Irish tourism features and their administrative structures for rural tourism operations. The final chapter of the book (chapter 15) focuses on Spanish tourism. The contributors of this chapter are Isabel Cortes Jimenez and Salvador Anton Clave. The chapter provides a sufficient initial analysis for the determinant factors of the current Spanish tourism map from an economic and geographical perspective.

Within its 15 chapters, this edited book covers several aspects of French tourism and recreational activities, and also tries to provide a more internationalized perspective. It successfully documents several challenges in recreational activities and regional

development connecting theoretical with practical domains. Still, some important dimensions, such as revenue management in recreation activities, risks and crises, disaster management, the role of information technology in regional development, the effect of social pathogen phenomena, and ethical conflicts, are under-discussed. In addition, the chapters individually provide a basic understanding for the areas they elaborate, but this understanding is limited concerning the level of analytical and conceptual depth. It would also have been beneficial if at the beginning of each and every part of the book, the editors have provided an introductory section, giving the opportunity to the reader to better comprehend the topics discussed in that specific part, and further understand the offered framework of knowledge. Nevertheless, this edited book can be valuable for students and practitioners especially in the field of tourism development. Even if the book is predominantly focused on France, the illustrated diverse disciplines contribute to the provision of an understanding in terms of tourism, recreation and regional development. As a result, the general reader is advised not to attempt reading the whole book but to select the chapter(s) of interest. Additionally, it is up to the reader's interest whether to focus on a specific part of the book or in individual chapters.

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